



News from the Front



December 1, 2006

LSA Anaconda, Iraq

Camp Buerking, Kuwait

Happy Holidays,

The past month has seen the Cobras continuing to own the roads of Iraq. To date, the company has executed over 30 missions and your soldiers have collectively put over 170,000 miles on the roads of Iraq.

Missions vary in length and duration from short, 65 mile round-trips to long 600 mile round trips. When the platoons travel long distances, they are always prepared to Remain Over Night or RON as we call it. Almost all of the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) they stay at have some sort of transient billeting which consists of tents or buildings with cots or bunk beds. The living conditions during the RON missions aren't too bad and the soldiers are usually happy to get back to LSA Anaconda after a few days on the road. The soldiers always bring the equipment they need to RON because unexpected delays frequently occur.

2LT Kelly Jones has prepared the next portion of the newsletter highlighting 6th Platoon. Next month, we will feature the Maintenance Platoon and highlight all the hard work these soldiers do day in and day out to keep us on the road.

We have been working hard to schedule a series Video Teleconferences (VTC) between us here at LSAA and the ACS building at Fort Riley. My intent is to afford all soldiers with family in the Fort Riley area the opportunity to speak face-to-face with their loved ones back home. We will have the first couple of VTCs before the Christmas Holiday.

Unfortunately, not everyone will have the opportunity to experience the VTC before the holidays but I will continue to schedule VTCs throughout the year. All scheduling will be done here in Iraq and soldiers will be responsible for contacting their families and alert them to the scheduled times. Each VTC will last about 15 minutes per soldier. More



News from the Front



information will be available as we continue to refine the schedule.

We wish you and your family a happy holiday season and best wishes for the coming year.

CPT Jeffery Jurand
COBRA 6.

Family & Friends,

Greetings from Logistics Support Area (LSA) Anaconda. This installment of the newsletter comes from 6th Platoon “Gamekillers”. To describe a typical day in the life of a Gamekiller, specifically I will focus on our preparations for a mission. Since we assumed the mission for Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) security, we have completed 4 missions to various Forward Operating Bases around Iraq. These missions can take from as little as 5 hours to 4 days to complete, depending on the region we are going to.

On the day of a mission, the “Gamekillers” usually come in 5 hours before it begins. Depending on when we are supposed to leave this time can vary anywhere from early afternoon to early evening. We bring in our rucksacks and sleeping bags for uploading on the trucks. After bringing in all of our gear several things happen. The drivers on the vehicles finish the last minute preparations for the mission by cleaning the windows, and rechecking the fluids. During this time the gunners are off to the arms room to draw their weapons. Once complete, the weapons are mounted on the vehicles and the crew finishes preparing for the next event, the Pre-Combat Inspection (PCI).



6th Platoon prepares for a Pre-Combat Inspection prior to a mission



News from the Front



The PCI for every mission is conducted by several people within the Platoon. I usually inspect all of the Platoon's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This includes a variety of things such as: helmet, body armor, knee pads, gloves, and hearing and eye protection. SGT Griffin, our Safety NCO, inspects a variety of things from fire extinguishers and fire blankets to the load plans on the trucks. He makes sure that everything is in working order and tied down. To quote SGT Griffin "to make sure you don't get hit in the head with a 3 lb thermos in case of a rollover".



A 'Gamekiller' soldier sits on his Armored Security Vehicle (M1117)

SPC Koh, our Platoon Medic, inspects the Combat Lifesaver Bags and the litters we carry on the vehicles to make

sure the bags are updated and the litters work. SSG (P) Reed's part of the PCI is inspecting the weapons and night vision equipment of all the soldiers to make sure they work properly, are lubricated and are ready to go. Once this is completed, the gear is loaded into the vehicles, and they are positioned for the rehearsal we do after the convoy brief with KBR truck drivers who we escort.

After the inspection, the Convoy Commander, usually myself, has to pick up the mission book from battalion headquarters and head to the Movement Control Team (MCT) here on the base. The MCT gives the convoy its trip ticket, which lets us leave LSAA to escort KBR.

After picking up the trip ticket the mission preparations are almost complete. While the trip ticket is being picked up, the platoon is taking time out to eat and finish any last minute corrections on the vehicles.

Usually two hours before we leave, KBR arrives and we touch base with the Convoy Commander for the KBR trucks.



News from the Front



During this time before the Convoy brief whatever loads we are escorting is finalized.

The convoy briefs for our missions are conducted in the MWR building here at the company. The platoon and all of the KBR drivers file into the room for 20 or so minutes of mandatory fun with the brief.

The Convoy briefs cover a variety of things such as where we are going, what we are escorting, and any safety issues that might come up while we are traveling. Different people in the Platoon brief. I brief weather and the mission statement, which is kind of the who, what, where, when, and why of it all. SGT Hernandez, our Lead Vehicle Commander, briefs the routes we will be taking from Point A to Point B. SPC Hobbs briefs the communications aspects of the convoy. SGT Griffin briefs the safety issues related to the convoy like securing your 3 lb thermos of coffee and how fast we can travel. Once all of this is covered we give our Chuck Norris fact of the day. This is the

comedic relief to the sometimes rather monotonous Convoy Brief.

After the Convoy brief we head outside for a rehearsal with KBR which is usually us extracting them from their trucks. It is sometimes a daunting task to climb up on the truck and get the driver out. Once this is complete, the vehicles are staged to leave our motorpool for the mission. During this time the Assistant Convoy Commander goes to the gate which we are leaving from and signs the convoy out. Once complete the convoy leaves the motorpool and heads to our respective gate to stage and get ready to leave. Once we leave the gate we can look forward to anywhere from 1 hour to 8 hours worth of travel depending on where we are scheduled to head too.



News from the Front



*A fully loaded 6th Platoon up-armored
HMMWV ready for mission*

I hope this little glimpse into a day in the life of a “Gamekiller” gives you and idea of what we go through for preparing for a mission on the roads of Iraq. I hope this finds you and yours in good spirits for the holidays as we look forward to being reunited with you soon.

Respectfully Yours,

2LT Kelly Jones

“Gamekiller 1”